



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Woodturning on a Lathe Demonstrated by Greg Kirkland at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Release Date
Sept. 30, 2014

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, Oct. 11, Greg Kirkland, of Elkhorn, will demonstrate how he turns wood on a lathe from 10:30 to 3:30 at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Kirkland has worked with wood most of his life. This self-taught artist shares a bond with the wood he turns, drawing the inner beauty out of each piece as it is shaped. There is a delicate balance at play in the wood-turning process. If conditions are not right, pieces can crack or break, and the artist has to start over.

Through patience, practice, and trial and error, Kirkland has learned how to work with the natural qualities of different hardwoods. He strives to enhance the inner beauty of the wood grain and turns forms that allow the unique patterns in the wood to show.

"Each piece of turned wood illustrates the soil and history of the tree from which it came," he said. "No two pieces of wood are alike, because they have different growth conditions."

Kirkland has a natural affinity for creating exquisite and one-of-a-kind pieces, including functional bowls and vases from fallen trees he finds all across the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. He is a juried and exhibiting member of the Kentucky Arts Council's Craft Marketing program and the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen.

Turned wood by Greg Kirkland is regularly found at the Kentucky Artisan Center, located just off Interstate 75 at Berea, Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the cafe open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. A gallery exhibit, "Put a Lid on It: Containers by Kentucky Artisans," is on display through Feb. 28, 2015; and in the lobby, "Kentucky Bourbon: Distillation and Inspiration," is on display through Nov. 16. For information about the center's events call 859-985-5448, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center, or go to the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Photos, left to right: Greg Kirkland turns wood on his lathe at the Center; a natural edge bowl in process; Kirkland's beginning blocks of wood sit alongside a finished bowl made from ambrosia Maple